

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 17498 ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 1.

QUOTE UNCLAS PARIS 17498

USOECD

FOR OES/GLASOE AND BLANCHARD, EUR/RPE, PASS EPA FOR
BRACKEN AND FULLER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: PART II PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING INTER-
NATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICALS

REF: (A) PARIS 12993, (B) PARIS 13752

1. SUMMARY: MISSION HAS RECEIVED ENVIRONMENT SEC-
RETARIAT LETTER ENV/D/88 ANNOUNCING PREPARATORY
MEETING FOR PART II CHEMICALS PROJECT ON 21-23 JUNE
1978. LETTER ANNEXES INCLUDE DRAFT DECISION OF
COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THREE-YEAR PART II PROGRAM,
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ITS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF
THE FOUR SELECTED PROJECTS, PROPOSED EFFORTS FOR
FIRST YEAR, AND ESTIMATED FIRST YEAR BUDGET TOTALLING
3,821,000 FF. COPIES OF DOCUMENT POUCHED TO GLASOE,
BLANCHARD AND FULLER ON MAY 29. HEADS OF DEL MEET-
ING ON MAY 24 WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO RODERICK
PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF CONTENTS OF LETTER,

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
SECRETARIAT REQUESTS NAMES OF U.S. DELEGATION TO
JUNE MEETING BEFORE JUNE 15. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARIAT LETTER AND ANNEXES REPRESENT
SYNTHESIS OF SUCCESSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DE-
CISIONS OF APRIL STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, CHEMICALS
GROUP (REF A) AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (REF B).
OBJECTIVES OF JUNE 21-23 PREPARATORY MEETING ARE
AS FOLLOWS: DISCUSS AND AGREE ON STATUTES AND
PROJECTS OF THREE-YEAR PART II ACTIVITY AND FIRST
YEAR OF OPERATION; AGREE ON FIRST YEAR BUDGET;
AND DEVELOP COST SHARING FORMULA (DEPENDENT ON
PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES).

3. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON ABOVE ITEMS, SECRETARY
GENERAL ON REQUEST OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL PROPOSE
TO COUNCIL THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PART II
PROGRAM. A COUNCIL DRAFT DECISION IS PROVIDED
WHICH ESTABLISHES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND ITS
FUNCTIONS, AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES, SPECIFIES
WORKING RELATIONS AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES,
AND PROPOSES A THREE-YEAR DURATION WITH PROVISION
FOR COUNCIL REVIEW BEFORE EXPIRATION. UPON EN-
DORSEMENT BY COUNCIL, PROGRAM WILL COME INTO
EFFECT. SECRETARIAT PROPOSES AN OPTIMISTIC TARGET
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DATE OF OCTOBER 1978, NOTING THAT ALL THE REQUIRED
AND AGREED FUNDS NEED NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME
FOR PROJECTS TO BEGIN. THIS REFLECTS SECRETARIAT
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONCERN BY COUNTRIES THAT DUE TO
DIFFERENT NATIONAL BUDGET CYCLES AND TIME REQUIRED
FOR GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES TO COMMIT FUNDS, MORE
TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DELIVER NATIONAL
CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. SECRETARIAT REQUESTS THAT DELEGATES TO JUNE
21-23 MEETING BE PREPARED TO INDICATE THEIR
GOVERNMENT'S WISHES ON CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION
IN PART II PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY ON STATUTES AND
PROGRAM CONTENT, FIRST YEAR'S WORK (INCLUDING
COUNTRY PARTICIPATION POSSIBLY AS LEAD COUNTRY),
BUDGET, AND SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. PART II PROGRAM CONSISTS OF FOUR PROJECTS
(A) GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES, (B) INFORMATION
EXCHANGE, (C) CONFIDENTIALITY AND (D) INTERNATIONAL
GLOSSARY. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND TASKS ARE BE-
LIEVED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH AGREEMENTS REACHED IN

RECENT CHEMICALS GROUP AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

6. FIRST YEAR'S WORK PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR PROJECTS IS CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND PROVIDES FOR CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN ASSIGNING PRIORITIES AND ADJUSTING RAPIDITY OF START UP OF PROJECTS. THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE TIED DOWN BY PREPARATORY MEETING.

7. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FIRST YEAR, EXCEEDING \$800,000, WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND WILL HAVE TO BE RIGOROUSLY DEBATED AND REDUCED. ESTIMATE DOES NOT PROVIDE DETAILED BREAK-
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DOWN AND JUSTIFICATION OF MAN-MONTH FIGURES. RECOMMEND U.S. DEL TO JUNE MEETING DEVELOP DETAILED BUDGET ESTIMATES AS REQUESTED OF U.S. DEL TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON APRIL 27TH BY AMBASSADOR SALZMAN.

8. MISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. CONSIDER PROPOSING U.S. EXPERTS FOR NEW POSTS SUPPORTING PART II PROGRAM. AN A-5 POSITION AS HEAD OF COMBINED CHEMICALS STAFF IS IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. WE EXPECT VIGOROUS COMPETITION FOR THIS INFLUENTIAL POSITION WITHIN SECRETARIAT AND AMONG PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

9. HEADS OF DEL SPECIAL MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SEC GEN ELDIN WHO EXPLAINED IN OPENING REMARKS THAT PURPOSE WAS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS, NOT TO TAKE ACTION OR MAKE DECISIONS. DR. RODERICK THEN PRESENTED HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CHEMICALS SITUATION, STRESSING THE SUCCESSIVE CLARIFICATION OF COUNTRY INTERESTS IN THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, THE APRIL 18-20 CHEMICALS GROUP MEETING AND THE APRIL 24-26 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. HE EXPLAINED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE PART II ARRANGEMENT FOR PURSUING THE ADDITIONAL WORK DESIRED AND AGREED UPON BY COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF FLEXIBILITY, RELIEF OF PART I CHEMICALS BUDGET, DIRECT BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, EARLY RESPONSIVENESS, AND POTENTIAL FOR BENEFICIAL HARMONIZATION IN VIEW OF EXISTING AND PENDING LEGISLATION. HE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUR PROJECTS AND THEN PROCEEDED TO A POINT BY POINT EXPLANATION OF HIS LETTER AND
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ANNEXES.

10. ANTICIPATING COUNTRY REMARKS WHICH FOLLOWED, RODERICK STATED HIS HOPE THAT COUNTRIES WILL EXPRESS THEIR INTERESTS AND INTENTIONS AT JUNE PREPARATORY MEETINGS WITHOUT NECESSARILY MAKING FUNDING COMMITMENTS AT THAT TIME. COUNTRIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO "OIN EARLY AND PAY LATER" ACCORDING TO RODERICK. HE ALSO PROJECTED STRONG WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PART I AND PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAMS, BY MEANS OF SHARED SECRETARIAT, TIGHT MANAGEMENT, AND CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS TO SAVE TIME AND TRAVEL COSTS OF PARTICIPANTS.

11. MR. ELDIN FOLLOWED WITH A STATEMENT ON THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND THE NEED TO CONSERVE AND SHARE THE SCARCE RESOURCES OF QUALIFIED TOXICOLOGISTS AND LABORATORIES. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HARMFUL NON-TARIFF BARRIERS WOULD RESULT FROM NON-HARMONIZED NATIONAL ACTIONS.

12. THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED WAS GENERALLY POORLY FOCUSED AND REFLECTED LACK OF PREPARATION AND BACKGROUND UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN HEADS OF DEL. SEVERAL DECLARED THEMSELVES UNPREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT, OTHERS STATED THEY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS; ONE COUNTRY ASKED WHY THERE HAD NOT BEEN A PRIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT; OTHERS WERE CONCERNED TO HOLD BUDGET DOWN, AND A FEW CLAIMED THAT TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE WOULD PREVENT COMMITMENTS IN JUNE. THERE WERE SEVERAL PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ITS REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATING ORGANIZATIONS AND BY-PASSING EXISTING CHEMICALS GROUP AND EN-

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VIRONMENT COMMITTEE. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS FROM NORWAY, SWEDEN, U.K., JAPAN AND U.S. MR. ELDIN EXPLAINED AUTONOMY OF OECD PART II PROGRAMS WHICH REPORT TO COUNCIL (USING IEA, CERI AND NEA AS EXAMPLES). HE REPEATED THAT PURPOSE OF PRESENT MEETING WAS MERELY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK

QUESTIONS. HE ENCOURAGED DELEGATIONS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT AND THEN ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

13. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THIS MEETING THAT, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME, TOP LEVEL OF SEVERAL OECD DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY BRIEFED AND ORIENTED BY THE COUNTRY SPECIALISTS WHO ATTEND THE CHEMICALS GROUP AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE USDEL AT JUNE MEETING URGE OTHER DELS TO MAKE STRONG EFFORTS TO CORRECT THIS CHRONIC PROBLEM WELL BEFORE COUNCIL ACTS ON PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH PART II PROGRAM.
SALZMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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